

# Modals (Present Form)

modal + base verb

# Can and Could

- You **can** clean the floor with a vacuum cleaner.
- I **cannot** understand that sentence.
  - ability in the present or future
- Teacher: You **can't** leave the class now.
  - give / deny permission
  - ask for permission (Can I leave the class now?)
- Our son **could** talk when he was two years old.
  - the past form of 'can' to show ability

# May and Might

- Sharifah **may / might** come for the meeting.
- It **may not / might not** rain tomorrow.
  - possibility in the present or future
- Yes children, you **may** have ice-cream after dinner.
- No! You **may not** have ice-cream after dinner. You have a cold.
  - give / deny permission (so it's similar to 'can')
  - ask for permission (May we have ice-cream...?)

# Will

- The police **will not** let the criminals get away.  
— show determination
- Jason **will not** go to Australia. He **will** go to Bangkok instead.  
— future action / plan
- We **will** pay you by the end of the week. We promise!  
— make a promise

# Would

- He said he **would** go fishing with me.
  - Past form of 'will'
- **Would** you like some coffee?
- **Would** you mind opening the door for me?
  - Request / polite offer

# Should / Ought to and Have to / Must

- You are getting very low grades. You **should / ought to** study harder.  
— giving advise
- You are getting very low grades. You **have to / must** study harder.  
— strong advise / suggestion / order

Have to = Must

But what about these examples? Do they have similar or different meaning?

- You **mustn't go** to the concert.
  - strongly against going
- You **don't have to go** to the concert.
  - It's up to you. If you want to go, it's OK. If you don't want to go, it's OK.

# Answers...

5. Can

6. ought to

7. ought to

8. Could

9. can

10. can

11. could

12. might

13. can

14. should

15. Would

16. should

17. Can

18. could

19. can

20. could

21. may

22. might

23. Would

## Exercise 10.3

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Can      | 11. can     |
| 2. May      | 12. can     |
| 3. Should   | 13. Could   |
| 4. Can      | 14. can     |
| 5. Ought to | 15. must    |
| 6. Must     | 16. Could   |
| 7. Will     | 17. can     |
| 8. have to  | 18. Would   |
| 9. Will     | 19. must    |
| 10. might   | 20. have to |

## Exercise 10.3 (continue)

21. should

22. may

23. must

24. could

25. can